

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8640
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4462

EXDIS

FOR AF HARROP FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT RH PGOV
SUBJ: ZIMBABWE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

REF: STATE 201621

1. OUR BRIEFING SHOULD, OF COURSE, OUTLINE THE PACKAGE
EMPHASIZING ITS INTERLOCKING NATURE AND OUR BELIEF THAT
IT PRESENTS A FAIR AND REASONABLE BASIS FOR A SETTLE-
MENT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT WILL NOT FULLY MEET EVERYONE'S
MAXIMUM DEMANDS, BUT WE ARE PERSUADED THAT IT GOES
AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

2. THE INTENT OF THE PLAN IS TO PROVIDE A FORMULA
FOR MOVING FROM AN ILLEGAL MINORITY GOVT IN RHODESIA
TO AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WITHOUT FURTHER BLOODSHED.
WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BEFORE THE CONFLICT DOES FURTHER DAMAGE TO SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND BEFORE THE CONFLICT BECOMES INTERNATIONALIZED.
IT SEEKS TO PROVIDE A MEANS WHEREBY THE PEOPLE OF
ZIMBABWE MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THEIR OWN
FUTURE LEADERSHIP AND TO DO SO IN A WAY WHICH WILL
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AVERT CIVIL WAR. THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE FAVORS NO
INDIVIDUAL OR FACTION.

3. WE ARE AWARE THAT SMITH MAY SOON PROPOSE A PLAN
OF HIS OWN FOR MOVING TO MAJORITY RULE. BUT WE ARE
PERSUADED THAT ANY FORMULA WHICH EXCLUDES OR DISADVANTAGES
CERTAIN GROUPS WILL ONLY MEAN A CONTINUATION OF THE WAR.

4. WE CANNOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER THE PLAN WILL BE ACCEPTED BY ALL THE PARTIES. IN ANY EVENT, WE PLAN TO GO TO THE UN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND SEEK AUTHORITY FOR THE UNSYG TO DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO CONSULT ON TRANSITION AND MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS (SEE PARA 11(C), LAST SENTENCE). WE HOPE TO BE JOINED IN THIS EFFORT BY MANY OF THE INTERESTED AFRICAN PARTIES AND BY SEVERAL OF OUR ALLIES. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THIS PERIOD OF CONSULTATION, WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEEK A MANDATE FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. ONLY WHEN THE UK GOVT AND THE PARTIES ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROSPECTIVE TRANSITION AND MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS, WILL A CEASE FIRE BE SET.

5. WE CANNOT YET SAY HOW THE UN FORCE WOULD BE CONSTITUTED OR WHAT IT WOULD COST. NEITHER CAN WE CHARACTERIZE THE REACTIONS OF THE PARTIES AT THIS TIME, SINCE THIS IS AN ONGOING PROCESS. IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION ALLOW ANY PARTY A VETO. THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR PLAN ARE NOT SUBJECT TO VETO BY ANY OF THE PARTIES.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND, WE ARE CONSULTING WITH POTENTIAL DONORS. THE US IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING 40 PERCENT OF THE FUND. IT IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND AND NOT A BUY-OUT PLAN.
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